Mid - Florida Atari Computer Club Bulletin

August, 1995

Vol. 12, No. 8

This is the monthly bulletin of the Mid-Florida Atari Computer Club. In it are articles written or submitted by members who feel they are of interest to all users of Atari computers.

You may wish to join a computer club to share the beneficial aspects of having others around you who have similar machines, like interests, and a desire to share what they know with others. A users group can help you understand things about your computer that they have already discovered.

Our membership, at $12.00 per year, entitles you to the newsletter, access to the disk libraries, and club meetings where all the fun and education happen on a monthly basis.

We meet in the Orlando Library building downtown Orlando, 101 E Central Blvd. At 1:30PM on the second Sunday of each month. Feel free to join us there next month to learn more about the wonderful world of computers, and Atari computers in particular.

For Newsletter Exchange

M.F.A.C.C.
C/O Bob Smith
3729 Yosemite Dr.
Orlando, FL 32818

M.F.A.C.C. Affiliated BBS Listing:

Top Gun	☛ 381-5403
Inner Core	☛ 294-5183
Lear-Sparks Midi	☛ 786-0239

Prez. Message
Page 2

Minutes
Page 3

Money STuff
Page 4

FYI
Page 6

Cybersmut
Page 8

ST Disk of the Month
Speed of Light
Page 11

8-Bit Disk of the Month
and 8-Bit Column
Page 19

New Products &
Other Things
Page 21

Mid-Florida Atari Computer Club

MID-FLORIDA ATARI COMPUTER CLUB

From the President

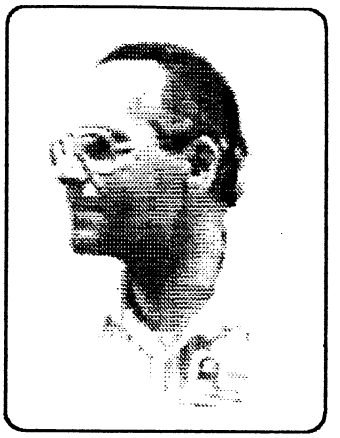
" From the Backyard of the WhiteHouse"

We now begin the second month of our new year. Does anyone know how many years this makes since the first small group of rebelious Atarians in Mid-Florida decided to split from the original club here in Orlando? Ithink the reason was something like the fact that the President was elected in perpetuity (like some South American Presidents we all know), and thje treasurer was given the checks to sign at the club meetings for the things the president had bought (and would keep at his house just so it would be safe, you know?) Well, times have changed our group. None of us in the rank of officer would like to hold a job too long, but rather give some of the younger (newer)? members a chance to try their luck at parliamentary procedure, fiscal planning, programming a monthly meeting, and so on. Look forward to being asked to share your expertise over the next few years.

It really is nice, isn't it, when you go online with the supporting BBS's and see new programs in the download files, new messages in the multiple special interest sections, and know that we are networking all over this continent and also overseas with folks who are using our computer system?

I really wish when I go over (it's so rare when I can leave work and go) to Morrison's that I would see more new software than machines being sold by former club members, but that is the thing we have grown to expect from ATARI USA. Members of the loyal fellowhood of Atarians seem to be creating more new stuff than ever before, and in a most interesting asside, OUR last several new members have been 8-bit punchers. You just can't keep a good machine in the closet, can you?

As an interesting aside, I think we'll run a little contest this coming month. Small entry



(Is This Really Bill Baker?)

fee, Big prize for the winner, fun for all who join in.
for $1 we will give you each the same SIMCITY.cty file to run for exactly one hundred years. Without cheating, the one who builds his city to the best configured, least polluted, richest town within the hundred years will win the prize. (If you have misplaced your copy of SIMCITY see the ST librarian for a loaner to use DURING THE CONTEST.

School starts again soon, unless yours runs year-round, and I would like r September to be a time when our programs could all be about children's education, toddler to graduate...so... if you have programs to educate, to have fun with while learning, let's see if we can set up a couple of extra machines and demo those programs.

If you have an idea about how to make this year more fun than ever, leave me a message in the MFACC sig on Inner Core.

Your beloved President, (insert first and middle names of second president of U.S.) Baker)

.

(Editor's note: would Groger Cleveland Baker sound right or would Richard Milhaus Baker sound better??)

Minutes Of The M.F.A.C.C. General Meeting

Minutes for the Atari Club
July 9th, 1995

The meeting began at 3:00

We were going to give the financial information to the new treasurer, but he wasn't there.

The club needs a color monitor. Robert Raymond will see what price Morrison's computers will charge for a SC1224; we would like to get one for under $100.

We noted that there are still a lot of 8 bitters out there.

Robert Raymond will demo a game that he wrote in HiSoft Basic for the club next month.

Bill Baker wants shorter meetings and longer demos. Also, we agreed that every other month should be a 'specialized' demo month, with all of the demo's illuminating the same issue.

Robert Raymond proposed that the paid membership be polled to see what days and times might make for better meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Some phone numbers you will need to communicate with our club:

President
Bill Baker

Vice President
Jeff Potter

Treasurer
Dave Steinberg

Secretary
Robert Raymond

ST Librarian
Bob Smith

8-Bit Librarian
Jeff Potter

Membership Services
Bob Smith

Publicity

This newsletter is produced on an Atari Mega STE-4, using Pagestream 2.2
and printed on a Hewlett Packard Deskjet 500

Treasurer's Report
JULY, 1995

Opening balance of	581.82
Deposit	63.00
Debit	00.00
Service Charge	10.00
Closing balance	$644.82

EMERGENCY NOTICE:
Our newly elected treasurer appears to have returned with the treasury from Guam.

The new photo of
Dave Steinberg

Birthdays for August

Bill (Geezer) Baker

All welcomed as new members.

NO NEW MEMBERS!!!
THIS IS SO SAD!!!!

HAPPY LABOR DAY!!!!!!

COMING EVENTS

Aug : 1: Bill Baker will sing America The Beautiful.
2: Jeff Porrer has European 8 Bit Demo
3: RENEWAL ACCEPTED

Sept. 1: Special ST Demo
2: Bill Baker will sing MAMI
3: Excellent 8 Bit Demo

FOR SALE!

Color ST Monitor 1224, excellent condition, Goldstar Manufacturer, Clean and tested.
Price: $100.00 FIRM.
Contact: Bob Smith
(407) 299 - 5374

****

Complete Lionel Train Collection, includes many, many very rare cars, some at least 50+years old. In excellent condition. 027 guage, includes over 49 c plus 3 locomotives, 3 transformers, including two heavy duty and much more, too numerous to menti here.
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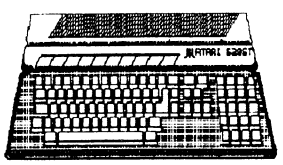

The Falcon has LANDED!!!

Personal Online Billing Intuit Inc. and 19 of the largest names in American banking and financial services announced that they are working together to enable individuals and small businesses to bank, pay bills and perform other financial tasks online through Intuit's Quicken personal finance software starting this fall. Intuit currently has over 8 million Quicken users.

****

Music Net Retail MNI Interactive continued its retail expansion plan for their MusicNet CD-ROM by announcing a non-exclusive distribution agreement with International Periodical Distributors (IPD) to distribute the quarterly CDROM in bookstores and selected computer stores and chains as early as September, 1995. IPD sells to such chains as Tower Books, Computer City, Micro Center and Software Etc.

MNI has adopted a selling strategy for the MusicNet CD-ROM by showcasing it in interactive magazine displays in high traffic book and computer stores nationwide. Last month, MNI announced a non-exclusive retail distribution agreement with Ingram Periodicals and unveiled its new magazine-size packaging at the American Booksellers Association Conference in Chicago. Previously, MusicNet CD-ROMs were ordered by phone and distributed by mail.

The MusicNet CD-ROM is a quarterly interactive music previewing and purchasing guide that enables consumers to try, through audio and video clips, the latest music and then purchase CDs for home delivery.

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Be Check Free Checkfree Corporation, announced that it will team up with ADP, a leading provider of commercial payroll services and electronic banking, to provide the first combined electronic bill payment and banking service to the commercial marketplace.

The new service will allow businesses to manage their banking functions from their PC by linking up via modem with the Checkfree/ADP processing facility. Businesses can view current bank account information, transfer funds among accounts, pay bills electronically and reconcile accounts. Business owners can know account balances prior to deciding what bills to pay and eliminating the effort to print, sign, and mail checks and remittance data.

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Radio PC - A new IEEE (INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS) 802-11 standard will allows PCs to communicate with each other without using any wiring. This will allow one to take the PC into the workplace and immediately start using it in a network. The IEEE hopes that the new standard will be finalized by the end of 1995.

****

Digital Camera - Space Imaging, Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space and Eastman Kodak Co. announced that Kodak will supply the digital camera for Space Imaging's commercial remote-sensing satellite (CRSS) system, scheduled for launch in late 1997.

Under the terms of agreement, Kodak will provide an integrated imaging payload system that represents a ten-fold increase in existing image resolution quality. The payload will enable one-meter panchromatic (gray-scale) resolution and four-meter, four-band multispectral (red, green, blue, near infrared) resolution instead of the ten- to 30-meter resolution that is currently available.

The digital camera is comprised of a Kodak designed and manufactured focal plane array and a lightweight telescope using a state-of theart mirror fabricated with Kodak's advanced ion figuring technology. To speed the

Continued on following page

downloading of data to Space Imaging's ground stations, the original 11-bit data will be compressed using Kodak's proprietary bandwidth compression technology. These features will enable the Space Imaging satellite to acquire the highest resolution earth imagery available for commercial entities.

****

E-mail vs. the FAX - FAX usage remains as high for U.S. Fortune 500 companies usingE-Mail communications as those without electronic mail capabilities, according to a recent Gallup/Pitney Bowes survey. The survey found that FAX is the communication method of choice being selected before E-Mail, Overnight Courier and Voice Mail, when a Fortune 500 company needs a fast response to urgent material.

****

SpiderNETWORK - Byron Preiss Multimedia Company announced the hiring of Danny Fingeroth, one of the most respected editors in the comics industry, to head a new on-line service dedicated to comics. Most recently Group Editor of Marvel Comics' Spider-Man division, he has joined the company as Director of Virtual Comics(TM). The division plans to develop new comics, characters and interactive graphic storytelling techniques in on-line form. In this capacity, Fingeroth will bring his years of experience to the development of comics accessible by personal computers as well as to the adaptation of existing comic properties.

****

Motorola HALTs - Motorola Cellular Infrastructure Group has launched a new portfolio of cellular fraud solutions called HALT!(TM). HALT! actually prevents cellular fraud by automatically blocking fraudulent calls before a network crime is committed, providing increased security for cellular carriers and their customers.

HALT! cracks down on cellular phone fraud which, according to the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), has become the high-tech fraud of the '90s, costing the industry nearly $1.5 million per day. HALT! has unique prevention and post-call analysis features that minimize cellular fraud.

****

Hayes Back Online - Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. Chapter 11 proceedings made a major leap forward when Judge Hugh Robinson approved the company's Disclosure Statement for its 100% Plan of Reorganization, and a $45 million debtor in possession (DIP) financial facility with General Electric Capital Corporation (GECC).

Hayes Plan of Reorganization is considered to be a '100%' plan because it pays all valid creditor claims in full, plus interest. The filing of this 100% Plan also means that all creditors are considered "unimpaired, " and will not need to vote on the plan for it to be confirmed.

Hayes, which announced the execution of a letter of intent for a merger with Boca Research Inc. last week, will use the combined assets of the two companies to obtain the approximately $60-85 million needed to fully fund Hayes emergence from Chapter 11 in the fall.

****

Simon Says? - Ziff-Davis Publishing was sold to Simon & Schuster for an undisclosed sum. Macmillian Computer Publishing (A unit of Simon & Schuster) will work with the new Ziff-Davis Publishing company to develop new computer books. The new computer books will include Ziff-Davis brand names such as PC Computing, MacUser and PC Magazine. Computing publishing is one of the fastest growing segments of the market today according to Simon & Schuster's CEO.

****

YOUR ARTICLE IS WANTED, NEEDED, DESIRED AND NECCESSARY.

DID YOU EVER WANT TO BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!!! JUST SUBMIT AN ARTICLE ON ANY ATARI OR COMPUTER RELATED SUBJECT AND YOU CAN REALIZE THE DREAM OF A LIFE TIME. YOU CAN SEE YOUR NAME ON A BYLINE AND UP IN LIGHTS.

DO IT NOW, WRITE AND SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE TO THE M F A C C NEWSLETTER. DON'T DELAY!!!!!! SEND IT TODAY!!!!!

CyberSmut, the Exon Bill, and Thee:

by Langston Goldfinch, SysOp of N.O.P.C.; Fido 1:396/17,
Psychotherapist by profession. (langston@nopc.org)

Warning, using a computer may hurt you. Or your kids. No doubt soon after Gutenberg had his press, or Bell his phone, alarms went off among the peasants. At my high school students were forbidden to watch Television since it was a tool of Satan. Maybe they had something? At least their answer was to not allow me to see it, rather than trying to make television sets illegal. Well, if your psyche is tender, or you
project it upon your offspring, read on.

Second warning, this report deviates from previous style. I suppose it is impossible to discuss anything without one's personality and values sneaking through. Objectivity being, as someone said, the myth of immaculate perception. So far my writings here have been instructional, about using your BBS, etc. Here I wish to share with you my thinking and concerns on an issue gaining public attention, namely the dark side of online services, including your own BBS.

One common confusion exists on this subject: The meanings of "censorship" and "editorializing". A policy of restricting content enforced or based on Law is Censorship. The current standards in this country (Liberal for the most part) are to Censor "Obscenity" but not all offensive or erotic material. This produced our rating's system, and "adults only" access for movies, etc. In my view "adults" should state "juvenile" only, since that is what the material usually consists of, but then that is my taste.

Three different types of activity raise concern.

a) The use of offensive language in public echoes. This means not only " "Carlin's Seven Forbidden Words", but usage of epithets and derogatory terms in confrontational exchanges. Often the moderator (many echoes have none) will admonish the "offender", and usually can bar participation. Software is to remove words designated, and/or "TWIT" a user. There is a problem with this, as Prodigy is discovering. The moderator or BBS may be liable if they do not continue to edit offensive, or libelous, material. Your SysOp's procedure is not to edit content, but if a user proves to be unusually obnoxious to bar his access to the system. This has been done for reasons other than offense in language (attempting to damage the system, or in one occasion to engage in possible criminal behavior, selling stolen goods.) The "rules" of FidoNet (for example) consist of:

1. Do not be unusually annoying. This would include repeated asking of questions, especially if in the manual!

2. Do not be too easily annoyed. Give the other user a break!

FidoNet is our basic connection to BBSs world. Now connecting to UseNet has given us a much greater range. Estimates of actual numbers vary widely. InterNet, being world wide, has no "rules" per se. Each user (or Net) may be subject to various regulations due to their own system (a University for example, or Country.) But for a user here to complain that someone in Zambia broke some local rule?

Many echoes seem to operate solely for the availability of offense. Fido echo FLAME exists for people to insult each other. These insults are primitive and lack the finesse of the British Parliament. Other echoes deal with topics likely to shock the average "normal" (you?) The names of these echoes will usually warn, or entice, you. Be aware that "Petting Zoo" is not about household pets! Sexual aberrations seem particularly attractive to Americans and "civilized" Europeans, but I understand that these offer nothing for third world countries. If you live on a farm you don't need to read about some things.
(Cont'd from page 8)

b) The meeting of juveniles with possible pedophiles.

The Times-Picayune (New Orleans 6-12-95)

(Continued on next Page)

reported a run-away girl (13) found in California far from her Kentucky Home (no music here, please). Apparently she "met" someone with her computer via an online service and was "lured" away. The FBI urges parents to "be more careful about how their children using computers". Gee, Dr. Spock used to give parenting advice! A few months ago "boy" (18) met an older man in a chat room on AOL. This daemon in Cyberspace sent him a bus ticket and he disappeared into the sunset. The parents finally forced AOL to connect the son and now "chat" with him online! Maybe they can raise the ante? Whatever happened to pen- pals and short wave? If Franda in Texas had sent me the fare maybe I would have run for the border? Never crossed my mind till today she may not have been anything like her picture!

There is not much that can be done to prevent these encounters if your child has access to your modem. All online services offer total strangers "talking" to each other. I showed my 12 year old the articles mentioned above. She just snickered, like what kind of an idiot was the girl anyway? Better parenting? Smug since it didn't happen to me.

I recall several years ago while setting up the BBS getting good technical help from someone online. I finally had occasion to go by the man's house. He came to the door (a few years younger than me) and I said:

"David?
"What do you want with my son??" The man practically bit my head off!

The "expert" was only 14! I had no idea. In Cyberspace, you can be whatever age you can muster, or weight, or gender for that matter! You get measured by your ASCII alone. One user complained about being barred from a BBS because of his "race". He got clobbered by the others on the echo. Obviously, how are we to know his (her?) race. Of course one's name can give matters away. Isn't Harry Lee related to Lighthorse Harry Lee? (R.E.'s daddy, case you forgot).

c) The availability of Graphics that are "obscene".

What about the dirty pitchers? (as Archie use to say!). The graphics that upset some people are of three distinct kinds.

1-) My teen sexual fantasies began with bra and girdle ads in Sears' catalogue. Hey! I had a deprived childhood! I still am a little nervous if my mother is watching me scan Macy's or Bloomingdale's "erotica". Most older men will understand me. What is available on K&B shelves (Bikini pictorials) will do just fine, thank you! And what if some pedophile gets his jollies watching Shirley Temple tap dance! Oh that lace! Pretty hard pressed to object to the same thing on BBSs.

2-) Next level are the images not accessible to middle America. Go to the roped off sections at the local News stand for example. Granted this stuff is a little hard for juveniles to possess. About once a year I
love walking down Bourbon St. late at night. No longer do I gawk at the shows. What now entices me are the tourists "shocked" by the shows!

"Look at that Myrtle, it really a man, can you believe it!"

The InterNet also can educate about the back alley of the world.

3-) But what really upsets folks are the graphics (and they include short "moving" pictures) that you won't find in current outlets in this country, commercial or marginal.

I was watching one panel this morning arguing the Exon Bill. One person maintained that this "pornography" is readily available and easy to even inadvertently have slammed in your face. She proceeded (Continued From Page 9)

to show a bondage picture on the screen. She lied, pure and simple, about how "easy" it is to get these pictures. It took me a week! Although not as precocious as the average 14 year old I do know something about how the system works. To make it short: you have to subscribe to the newsgroup (or mailing list) then you have to unencode the file then you have to run a graphics viewer capable of

(Continued on next page----->)

handling jpeg files. Now, think you can do it!

Recently in NYC I was walking up Broadway near Columbia Univ. A group was demonstrating against what to them was "porno". Explicit photos from Hustler Magazine (and such) got shoved in my face and I was asked to sign a petition to make such stuff illegal.

"Where is was the petition to make what you are doing illegal!"

Not really, I love street theater! Hypocrites! I avoid Flynt and his ilk, at least they are honest pornographers! The same strategy now used by the Family Resource Center and other pro-censorship groups. If the material is evidence of a crime then arrest the criminals for the crime, not the picture. But don't shove the picture in my face.

Legislation is currently on hold at the Federal level (The Senate Committee is redrawing the Law. Advocacy groups, pro and con, will be airing their views and fanning their flames. Like most discussions concerning this media, a good deal of ignorance prevails. The concerns are: How to protect children from InterLewd?, or at least from negligent parents? Our own grand state also had a bill up for consideration. The effect of this bill would have been similar to charging phone executives with a crime should you receive an obscene call. This bill also is on hold.

Even without new laws people get arrested and go to jail, for making some material available online. One man I met got arrested in Lawton Oklahoma by a crusading District Attorney. The "crime" involved selling CD-Roms that any of you can buy from ads in Computer Shopper. He was advertising these on his BBS. Unfortunately the images shocked the local Jury. He has lost his business, his house, his family; just like Job! Although on appeal he wants to go to jail and get it behind him. Now if I were in Singapore I wouldn't spit on the sidewalk, and I have no intention of testing our District Attorney's political disposition. Would be odd to pick on local BBSs however, with Bourbon Street so wide open! Some of you may remember the fracas about the nude Thais a few years back!

I realize this controversy has been going on since Comstock was a baby and nothing I say is likely to change any of your minds. As SysOp of your BBS you should know (I think) what my values and policies are. On the few echoes I moderate (NOPC being quite active) I have no rules at all. Any member user can say what they wish. If someone offends, tell them. If someone hurts your feelings, deal with it. If you need my help in suggesting ways to protect and take care of yourself I will give it. If you try anything criminal you will find your access cut. If you offend me then consider yourself among an elite, very few have succeeded! If anything here has offended you then maybe I have not explained myself clearly enough, or maybe, just maybe, you are too easily annoyed.

In the mean time don't look for extreme graphics on your BBS. If you have the yearning contact me privately and I will tell you where to search and how. Frankly, graphics, also called binaries, take too much space on the hard drives. They also tie up the system, too much time downloading. I know one or two of you have downloaded all the swimsuit pitchers, you could have gone to K&B and bought them! Secondly, with 100,000 messages a day coming into our system there is absolutely no way for me protect your children. Do it yourselves. We do keep logs for a week or so (again, space), and if you wish I will send any member copies to check whatever you wish. Don't ask me to do it. Behave on echoes as if you were in person, if in doubt about proper way to handle matters read Ms. Manners, she is definitive.

(Editor's note: This article is reprinted from FIDONEWS online BBS News magazine.)

The ST Disk of The Month
****

Speed of Light 3.8 Review

Review by Mark Stephen Smith
Internet: msh@dl.ac.uk or
dlms@nessie.mcc.ac.uk

Speed of Light has been around for many years now on the Atari. Starting off as a GIF viewer it has developed into a powerful picture viewer and colour editor. Its latest incarnation is version 3.8 containing mainly bug fixes over previous versions. Speed of Light, or SOL as I will refer to it from now on, is Shareware and whilst perfectly useable has some of the more advanced options crippled in such a way as to encourage registration. The whole set of tools and their use is too great to go into in detail, even in an review this large, I will however try and give a flavour of their use and power so you can get a feel for the program as a whole.

//// What is SOL and what does it offer?

SOL firstly is a picture viewer, within the program however it sports a wide variety of features so as to get the best out of your pictures. It works on all Atari formats (ST, Falcon, TT, Mega) and works in all resolutions in up to 256 colours. It supports a wide variety of formats and is one of the fastest GIF file handlers on an Atari. SOL now supports the DSP in the Falcon for JPEG decoding. It is MultiTOS compatible and recommended for maximum speed to be run in conjunction with NVDI or Warp 9.

//// Registering the Program

This review is based upon the registered version of Speed of Light. To register is simple, just start the program (see "Getting Started below). Upon loading you will be greeted with a screen allowing you to enter your registratio n details. Enter your details and choose "Print EZForm", this will create a document which can be printed or saved to disk with your details which you send to the author (or local registration handler) along with the registration fee. They in turn will generate your registration key.

Once you have received this key load the program and enter it along with your details, the program then becomes the registered version and will work without any features being disabled. You only have to register once, with subsequent loads taking you straight to the main menu.

This form of registration is quick and easy and your details and keycode only have to be entered into future versions for you to receive a full registered upgrade.

//// Getting Started

The program is available from many PD libraries, FTP sites, Stuart Denman's and my Atari Web pages, as well as making an appearance on several Atari magazine coverdisks. What you get is the un-registered version of the program, with all the documentation, supporting files and image files.

Using the shareware version without registering offers all the facilities you get with the full version with the difference that some of the more advanced features such as warping will have blank lines in the pictures at regular intervals, and that you are limited to only loading one JPEG image per session. Other than these limitations placed to encourage you to register you have full access to the program.

Running the program couldn't be simpler. Just click on the program file "SPOFLT38.APP", after a short while you will be asked to enter your registration details, if you don't have any you can continue by choosing "Cancel". This will now take you to the main options screen.

Whatever resolution you load in will be the screen size used by the program, and the number of colours in that resolution will be used (up to 256 colours). On all machines but the Falcon however you do have the option to change the resolution from within the program.

//// Main Options Screen

From the main options screen all the options and access to the more advanced options are available. Here's a quick summary of the main options screen features (starting from the top

(Continued on Page 12---->)

left), some of which I'll describe in greater detail later:

Picture Statistics:
Various information on the picture such as name, size and palette size.

"H" Button:
Histogram of current image.

"P" Button:
Optimises image palette.

Machine Specifications:
Various machine information such as computer being used, resolution, palette, and the number of colours.

"Delta" Button:
Allows the changing of resolution on ST's and TT's within the program.

"3-Bars" Button:
Allows setting of preferences and true colour preferences.

Picture Number Slider:
A slider to easily move through the pictures in memory.

Display Mode Menu:
A pop-up menu that allows you to select between olour or shades (grey scale). On the TT "TTGrey" mode is available which allows 256 shades of grey.

Downward Arrow Button:
Makes image as close to original as possible by setting sliders to zero and histograms to 1-to-1 transformation.

"Complex" Button (Colour Transformations): - Toggles between the additive color transformation options and the histogram colour transformation options.

Additive Colour Transform Slider:
Available when "Complex" is not selected. These three sliders one for each of the prime colours allow you to add to or subtract the RGB elements of the picture. If moved equally together can be used to brighten or darken the picture.

Colour Reduction Menu :
If the picture contains more colours than the display this can be used to decide how the palette will be reduced. Frequency is the default with "By Rank" and "Influence" being the other choices.

Colour Rank "Button" :
This switches to the colour rank histogram editor so you can define the ranks of the RGB planes.

Complex "Button" (Colour Reduction/Selection) :- Toggles between simple contrast slider bars and histogram colour contrast.

Colour Contrast/Separation Slider :
These three sliders define the minimum seperation between the chosen colours used to display the image.

Horizontal/Vertical Size:
Allows you to enter the horizontal and vertical pixel sizes for the images to be scaled to.

Axis Effect Menu:
Allows you to choose horizontal, vertical or both with respect to how the buttons (below) effect the axes.

"O" Button:
Sets scaling to original size of image.

"A" Button:
Calculates the aspect ratio based on the effected axis when scaling.

"-" Button:
Halves the selected axis.

"+" Button:
Doubles the selected axis.

"Fltr" Button:
Toggles filtered scaling on/off.

"Set" Button:
Takes you to the filtered scaling dialogue for setting filter type and scaling.
"Fit" Button:

(Continued on Page 13------->)

Makes the image fit the current resolution in size as best as possible whilst maintaining the aspect ratio.

"Mous" Button:
When highlighted the mouse will be displayed on the display screen, otherwise it is hidden.

"SmDr" Button:
Toggles on/off "Smooth Draw" mode. This is where flickering is used to increase number of colours you choose to turn it on or off when the image is being drawn to speed up image draws.

"Warp" Button: -
Takes you to the Warp dialogue where you can set the warping and stretching effects.

Flicker Contrast Slider:
Sets the maximum contrast allowed between flickering colours. When on the far left flickering is off.

Dither Pattern Menu::
This menu allows you to select different dither patterns.

"Set" Button: -
Takes you to the dithering dialogue to give detailed control over dithering.

"Desk" Button:-
Allows access to accessories or to other programs when under MultiTOS. Options for SOL are also available as drop down menus .

"?" Button:
Displays credits, shareware information and amount of free memory.

"Purge" Button: -
Allows you to remove the current image freeing memory. When double clicked on removes all images.

"Colours" Button:
Takes you to the colour editor (not allowed in Shades, Greyscale mode or any resolution using less than 16 colours).

">>" Button:- Takes you to the slideshow dialogue where you can set the different slideshow parameters such as start and end images, pause length between images, and forwards or backwards play. Once set up choosing "Display" from the main options screen will go through the images for the slideshow. Turn the slideshow off to view single images again.

As you can see the program is packed to the brim with features, with these just being a brief summary of the options available from the main menu, that's before we even start to look at the advanced features.

You may think that with all these features it difficult to use, but the control for the most part is straight forward and intuitive leaving the user only having to reference the manual to look at some of the more advanced features and to see some of the possible shortcuts and tips available to achieve better results.

//// Using SOL for the first time

Upon loading SOL you are most likely going to want to load some images, to do this you select the "Add" button. You will be presented
with the file selector where you can choose an image or use wild cards to load multiple images. Gettin g files into SOL is very easy. Apart from the methods mentioned above it is also possible to load images by dragging the files over the SOL program icon on the desktop (on later versions of TOS), therefore starting the program with several loaded images. There is even support for other file selectors such as Selectric allowing multiple images to be selected and loaded in one operation.

SOL supports the following image formats for loading:

- GIF (.GIF)
- JPEG (.JPG)
- Degas Uncompressed (.PI?)
- Degas Compressed (.PC?)
- Prism Paint (.PNT)

(Continued on Page 14 ------>)

- GEM (X) Image Format (.IMG)

and the following for saving:

- GIF
- Degas Un/Compressed
- Prism Paint
- GEM (X) Image Format

The speed at which it handles GIF files is excellent and Falcon owners are catered for with DSP JPEG decoding (although the reduction from true colour to 256 colours does slow this down). Once you have an image you will most likely want to view it. Selecting the "Display button will bring the image to the screen. If the image is larger than the screen you can scroll the screen by moving the mouse pointer from the centre of the screen. The further you move it from the centre the faster the screen scrolls in that direction.

Pressing the right button returns you to the main options screen. If you want to see the whole image at once clicking on the "Fit" button will shrink the image proportionally to the screen. If the image uses more colours than you have available SOL uses clever techniques to expand the palette, however if the results still aren't good enough then it is possible to improve the picture in a number of ways.

The first way to improve the image when lacking colours is to adopt one of the many dither patterns. Clicking on the "Dither Patrn:" box will bring up a menu with a choice of dither patterns with the default being no dither pattern. This menu has two empty slots into which you can load dither patterns. To access the dither options and to load a pattern into one of the slots select the "Set" button next to "Dither Patrn:", this will take you to the dither options screen.

SOL comes with 3 standard dither patterns with the option of loading additional dither patterns as provided with the package. These dither patterns are in the same format as that used by GemView and are therefore interchangeable.

Once at the dither options screen you can do a number of things. You have the choice of changing options on the FIS (Filtered Image Scaling) or normal dithering patterns. The Filter (FIS) options allows you to either choose no pattern, one of the defaults or to load one of the files available. The normal dither options has the same options plus the addition of being able to change the gradient steps and contrast of the pattern chosen.

Other options that can be adopted to improve the image quality when the current resolution doesn't support enough colours is to use the "Flicker Contrast" slider. When moving this slider will define the contrast level of the flicker and therefore the degree of flicker visible. When moved to the far left it is off with possible values up to 255. Using this increases the palette available and gives you extra colours in which to display the picture. The disadvantage is a degree of flicker is introduced into the image when viewed and it slows draw time if flicker is not turned off with the "SmDr" button.

//// Short Cuts

There are many shortcuts available in SOL but keyboard shortcuts are not available generally as a rule in the window and option screens. This has been done deliberately so as not to clash with programs that provide shortcuts automatically. However whilst viewing an image using the "Display" button short cuts to perform a number of simple tasks and to take you to different parts of the program become available. This includes everything from changing what image is being viewed and flipping or scaling it, to calling up the colour editor.

A thing that people often miss when viewing a picture is that pressing and holding the left mouse button will bring up a list of features available for manipulating the currently viewed image. This list includes the keyboard shortcuts were applicable and makes the program very user friendly as it saves time flipping between the picture and options screens.

(Continued on Page 15------>)

//// Colour Editing

The tools provided by SOL for colour editing and enhancing are its most powerful features, and is what makes it stand out from other picture viewers.

Colour editing is divided between the RGB additive sliders that add or subtract from the RGB elements of an image in a linear fashion, the complex RGB controls which use the histogram method of alterering the RGB balance throughout the image, and the colour editor which gives you direct control over the palette use d and the colours within it.

I will look in further detail now at the later two elements of the package. Namely the "Histogram Editor" and the "Colour Editor."

//// The Histogram Editor

This is available for use to control either the colour or contrast of a picture. I will look at its use when applied to the colour aspect of an image. To access the Histogram Editor you must select the "Complex button in the colour options area. This replaces the RGB sliders with 3 histograms, one for each of the RGB elements. Clicking on any one of the histograms will take you the the Histogram Editor.

On this screen the histogram of the colour selected is enlarged to fill a large portion of the screen. Moving the mouse over the histogram and clicking sets the level at that point. If the left mouse button is held down whilst moving over the histogram you effectively draw the histogram for that colour. Switching between the histograms for changes to the three colours is easy using the three buttons at the top of the screen to take you to the appropriate colour. These arethe "Red", "Green" and "Blue" buttons.

Along the bottom of the screen are several buttons for editing the shape of the histogram, these are the "Stretch", "Squash", "Invert", "Flip" and arrow buttons (where the arrow buttons scroll the histogram). You can also "Copy" and "Paste" histograms to any of the
other histograms therefore copying the shape to one of the other colours. It is possible to double click on the "Copy" button to automatically copy the current histogram to the other two. All changes can be reversed with the use of the "Undo" button. It is also possible to automatically define the shape using either the "Linear" or "Gamma buttons.

Linear creates a step from left to right with a one-to-one slope and gives you the shape you usually see, namely a triangle.

When you select Gamma for gamma correction you will have to enter the gamma value into the popup dialogue. Selecting the "Generate" button does the correction with values greater than one darkening the image, and less than one brightening the image. Gamma correction does this without creating washout in the picture.

Once you are happy with your changes you can select the "OK" button to accept them and return the the main options screen or the "Cancel button to reject all changes made and return to the options screen.

There are several histograms available for you to load and try out.

//// The Colour Editor

To enter the Colour Editor from the main options screen you select the "Colours" button. Once selected you will be taken to the Colour Editor screen. Across the top of the screen ten colours are displayed with the colour value above them. Using the "VDI Order" button you can toggle between the colours being displayed in VDI order or Device-Dependent order. You can scroll the ten colours through the image palette by either using the Arrows at either side of the colour boxes, or by using the Slider Bar just below the colour boxes.

(Continued on Page 16------->)

Colours can be selected for editing by clicking on them in their boxes (selected colours are highlighted with an inner box). To alter a selected colour you move the three Slider Bars for the RGB elements. Boxes marked with an "X" in th e palette are unused colours.

Buttons in this editor are divided into two areas, the upper-left uttons for manipulating two or more colours (known as the "Toolbox"), and the lower left/right hand buttons which are for switching to other dialogue boxes, undoing, or for other global operations.

Buttons within the Toolbox are used in the same way. You must select the range of colours you wish to apply the tool to. Colours selected are reffered to as "hot" colours and once selected the tool will perform the operation over the set of colours selected.

Tools available are:

"Copy" - Copies first colour to second.
"Swap" - Exchanges two colours.
"Fill"- Fills whole range with the first colour.
"<" Rotate - Rotates the palette left with wrap around.
">" Rotate - Rotates the palette right with wrap around.
"Sort Group" - Sorts the colours within the range into groups based o their RGB values.
"Gradient" - Fills in all the colours in the range blending the colour from the first to the last.
"Sort DK > LT" - Sorts the range from the darkest to the lightest.
"Sort LT > DK" - Sorts the range from the lightest to the darkest.

The functional buttons are the other group of buttons associated with the Colour Editor. The functional buttons include:

"Match" :
Toggle on/off. This causes SOL to match changes in the image to the new palette. If it doesn't use one of the colours in the map it will mark it with an X. When not selected changes will appear in the displayed image.

"Display" :
Display the picture.

"Undo" :
Undoes any palette changes.

"Cpy/Swp" :
Allows you to copy or swap the palette with another image.

"Image" :-
Allows you to edit another image's palette.

"Rescan" :
Reverts back to the orignal palette.

"Select" :-
Allows you to click on any pixel in the image and return to the editor with that colour selected for editing.

"Take" :-
Works the same as Select but colour currently being edited takes on the colour that pixel had in the origianl image.

"Load" :-
Loads a .PAL palette file into the current colour map.

"Save" :
Saves current palette in .PAL file.

"Cancel" :-
Aborts any changes made and returns to previous screen.
"
Options" :-
Goes to the Options Dialogue.

//// Filtered Image Scaling

Filtered Image Scaling (FIS) is used to smooth out or alter images that have been enlarged or reduced, whilst it will help improve images that are scaled in this manner it has the drawback that it is very calculation intensive and therefore takes a long time to draw. As such it is not a quick way to view images but can be used to improve them.

(Continued on Page 17 ----->)

To use filtering you must turn the filter on by selecting the "Fltr button and use the "Set" button to go to the FIS option screen. Once on the option screen you will be presented with a selection of menus, buttons and editable fields.

The first menu is the "Filter Type" which can be either "Standard" or "Enhancing". The second menu is "Filter Curve" which has the options of "Box", "Triangle", "Cubic", "B-Spline", "Lancos3", "Mitchell" or "Nelson". With each offering a different filter curve. Other options include toggle switches for "Filtering On/Off", "Flip Horizontal" and "Flip Vertical", "Wrap Image at Edges" and "Scale Filter". Editable fields are for the "Height", "Horizontal" and "Vertical". Information is also given on the amount of memory required for the filter.

When the enhancing Filter Type is selected the Filter Curve menu contains different filters specifically for enhancing the image. These are "Sharpening", "Quad-Step", "Raised Edge", "Smooth Bias", "Sharp Bias", "Linear Bias" or "Diffusion". Enhancing filters generally work better when image scaling is a multiple of the original image. Often you will get banding due to the inability of these filters to shift phase.

Some filters such as Sharpening and Diffusion work best on the original image whereas others work best on enlarged images. Some of these other filters can be used to create interesting effects on the pixels themselves such as the Sharp Bias filter which produces a 3D pixel effect. Some of the filters are assymetric and can therefore be flipped. Filters can also be wrapped at the edge of the image or faded. Both have drawbacks in that fading will darken the edge of the image whilst wrapped edges can produce duplicate pixels close to the edges.

When reducing an image without FIS image quality is lost. Standard filters are used to accurately take into account lost lines and improve detail. When "Scale Filter" is selected it is possible to blur filters. Small scaling values will not blur the filter but larger values will increase level of blurring. Values less than one produce a weird patterned darkening effect.

Filtering is a powerful tool within SOL and as such requires a lot of experimentation to achieve the best results along with a lot of patience. When working with FIS on large images it is ideal to have a lot of memory available.

//// Image Warping

(Please note that image warping cannot be used in conjunction with FIS).

Clicking on the "Warp" button will take you to the warp option screen. Here you can enter a variety of values for "Width", "Horizontal Shift", "Height" and "Vertical Centre". Along side these options are the menus "Warping Pattern" and "Repeat". The first menu contains the following list of warp transformations:

Off (No warping)
Flat
Linear
Cubic
B-Spine
Plateau
Sine Wave

The Repeat menu has the options of "Once" or "Periodic". Using Warping scan lines are stretched and shifted in various ways in order to make an interesting change in the image. All numbers entered are relative to the image itself so if the image is enlarged twice the warping figures will be scaled likewise. The warping is centred around what is reffered to as the "bulge" and can be repeated using the periodic bulge. This centre is usually the peak or lowest point of the curve when warping.

Whilst the distortions provided prove no real practical value they are fun to try and are worth experimenting with to achieve some interesting effects.

//// Scripts

(Continued on Page 18------->)

SOL has the ability to read special scripts which can be created by the user, which are to be used in conjunction with the slideshow. With these simple scripts it is possible to assign individual times for images to stay on screen, as well as to select whether loaded images stay in memory or are loaded each time to save memory. You can even select files with wildcards for use in the slideshow.

You also have the option of viewing one image whilst the next is being loaded and decompressed. Other features include the ability to define how the image will look when displayed by making use of warping, scaling, truecolour reduction, etc. SOL will follow all these commands from a script without the user having to do anything.

This is a very useful and welcome additional feature within SOL.

//// Summary

SOL is an excellent program, with a wealth of features it will keep you experimenting with it for some time to come. All the features are very fast and provide excellent results. SOL must have the most comprehensive set of colour features I've seen in a single package and this alone makes it worthwhile to use. Combine this with its speed and compatibility and you have a package that every Atari owner who likes to view pictures should support.

Of course there are some limitations. There is no true colour support and there is a limited number of picture formats supported. JPEG's are memory hungry and can be slow but when put against the positive things it has to offer these seem to fade away. This package is a winner.

//// Scores

[] Ease of Use = 82

Although designed well with many shortcuts and a good intuitive design this doesn't score as high as it could due to the nature of the package. Many of the more advanced features are difficult to use and take a long time to master and although the program is well done these problems can't be overcome with anything other than experimentation to achieve the right results.

[] Features = 91

For a picture viewer this program is packed with features and represents excellent value for money. Colour wise nearly every option is supported that you could ever want and each area implemented has been thought out very well and is very comprehensive. This said there are some features in this current version that have yet to be implemented and with these the score would be higher.

[] Use of Computer = 90

Despite the fact it is not aimed at any one machine and therefore allowing for clever programming and optimisations for that machine this does an excellent job of taking advantage of the extra facilities of whatever machine you are on. This is shown by the support for the TT and the DSP in the Falcon, making its use of machine excellent with most operations being lightning fast whatever the system.

[] Compatibility = 96

What can I say it works with and makes the most of all the Atari range. This review is based on the time I spent on the package on both the ST and the Falcon. In all the time I spent on both machines the only problem I ever had was on the Falcon and that turned out to be a problem with the Overscan software I was running. It evens supports file selectors, screen accelerators, MultiTOS, and some graphics cards.

[] Speed = 92

Everything with the exception of FIS scaling is very fast (although considering the intensive nature of this it is to be expected). Warping can take a little time as can JPEG decoding but again this is to be expected. Speed of Light certainly lives up to its name.

[] Documentation = 84

(Continued on Page 19 ------>)

Overall the documentation is good but being included as a text file on disk for you to print out does limit its ability to illustrate some things clearly. The ability to see more screenshots and illustrations of use along with some small tutorials would help more. Reading the manual on its own can be a little confusing at times unless sat in front of the computer trying everything out. Also some areas are skimmed over too quickly in the manual.

[] Overall = 91

An absolute must for anyone with an Atari who views pictures and has a need to enhance the palette or clear up pictures. With only a few minor flaws, it is an excellent package with good support fast times for use, very comprehensive tools, a well thought out design and excellent cross platform compatibilty. Get this and register it now, you won't regret it

(Editor's note: This review is one of the very best that has come down the pike in awhile. This review will also act as the introduction and explanation of the MFACC Disk Of The Month. for August 1995. Be sure and pick up this month's DOM if you are into Picture Viewing and Slideshows and related areas. IT IS EXCELLENT!!!!)!

****

Bill Baker says:

See what you are missing if you don't renew.....

SO AS YOUR PRESIDENT I AM ISSUING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER:

RENEW TODAY,

NOT TOMMORROW,

BUT RENEW TODAY!@

ATARI 8-BIT COLUMN
August 1995

by Jeff Potter
MFACC 8-Bit Librarian

Greetings! If you're reading this at the August meeting, you'll notice I'm not there. I'm off on vacation in Colorado for nearly two weeks, but I should show up for the September meeting.

I'm writing this the same day hurricane Erin came through central Florida. My neighborhood was spared from severe damage, just receiving the normal peppering of branches and twigs blown out of the area trees. Here's hoping your home and family weathered the storm.

In the latter half of July, I had a business trip to Scottsdale, Arizona, to attend a series of symposia. This happens to be near where Mike Hohman, owner and proprietor of Fine Tooned Engineering (FTe) has recently relocated from California. Mike and I had met about four years previous, at the Chicago Atarifest of 1991. Those of you who have been following the 8-bit scene will recognize FTe as the owner of the rights to the ICD/OSS product line for the 8-bit Atari.

Mike brought me to his place in Mesa, where he is still moving in. Therein exists the most extensive collection of Atari systems and rarities I have yet to experience (although Mike admits Bob Woolley's collection is even bigger).

The first 8-bit system he showed me had his new MIO II connected. The MIO II is an interface between the 8-bit parallel bus (the edge connector(s) on the back of your XL/XE) and an IDE hard disk. This was retrieving files from the disk at an amazing rate. This new product will open up the 8-bit to a new world of cheap, dense magnetic disk storage. I forgot to ask him when these

(Continued on Page 20 ----->)

would be ready to ship.

The same computer might have been the one with the Mars8 upgrade. This upgrade imbeds the four most popular ICD products (MAC65, Action!, BASIC XL, and BASIC XE) inside your 800XL. Any of these could be swapped in and out under program control, and even remain swapped in after you turn off the computer. This product is not ready to ship, but I did see circuit board prototypes. This has been a labor of love for Mike, I could tell.

The Sparta DOS X cartridge V4.22 is ready to ship, and is available either as a whole cartridge, or just as ROMs to install yourself. Mike is sponsoring a contest, asking SDX users to identify all the upgrades they can notice in this version. The prizes are Sweet16 upgrades.

Speaking of Sweet16, I saw these upgrades lined up ready to ship. I picked one up and installed it in my system. This replaces your old 6502 with the newer 65816 processor. The 65816 powers up in 6502 emulation mode, for 100% compatibility with all your old software. But new software can be written taking advantage of the new 16-bit instructions, powerful new addressing modes, and speedy block move instructions present in the 65816. The Sweet16 fits in the same 40-pin socket as your 6502, but may require replacing your socket if it is a certain type (mine was). I intend to port some of my GIF viewer software to take advantage of the 65816's power. Sweet16 comes with a manual on John Harris' excellent MAE macro assembler/editor/debugger package, and some good notes from John on 65816 programming.

Mike had some real rarities, such as the 1450 XLD computer with built-in 300 baud modem (state of the art when it was introduced) and speech synthesizer. I noted that my Maze of Agdagon game works fine on the 1450. He also had at least two copies of the Andy robot, which was intended to plug into the 8-bit's joystick ports for remote control. He showed me original MIOs, Omniview chips, Express Pro cartridges (terminal program), and a Turbo 816 (older versions of 65816 upgrades). Plus he had various other IBM clone computer parts and systems in various states of completeness.

Kyle Dain, a friend/coworker of his and long-time Atari 8-bitter, showed off a project of his own. Some of you may have heard of the SIO2PC hardware and software that allows you to use a PC as a virtual disk drive for the 8-bit. Kyle's project was using a CP/M-based computer instead of a PC, and was demonstrating higher throughput than SIO2PC.

Mike pulled together three systems, and we commenced to play about six games of Maze of Agdagon. As always, the big challenge of playing this game is finding three or more sets of working joysticks in one place. Mike had a wide assortment of sticks, including an odd one in the shape of a turtle. Its shell tilted in any of the four directions, and had suction cups on the bottom to allow it to stick to a table. Several games were cut short by yells of "my joystick doesn't work!" The faulty sticks were replaced and we continued. Three tips for satisfying game play are to set all the systems on the floor, keep the lights low, and only use monitors with excellent bass response. That way, when you get a kill, you get to hear them being blown up, and enjoy the satisfaction of watching their screen "light up" the loser's face. By the way, I won more games than Mike or Kyle, but not by much.

In all, it was a great visit with one of the great Atari 8-bitters.

That's all for this column. As always, I'm open for suggestions on future themes for the 8-bit column and Disks of the Month. Drop me a line on Bob's Inner Core BBS, or write me at:

202 Chestnut Ridge St.
Winter Springs, FL 32708

NEW PRODUCTS AND OTHER THINGS

-==========

By Bob Smith

I came across the following new products and descriptions that I thought I would write about. It appears that we, in the Atari World are being supported by state of the art products for our machines. Contrary to the belief of several people that I know, there is a future for the Atari machines that we own and love. This column will appear from time to time and if anyone knows of a new software or hardware item, please let me know and I will see that it is published.

And away we go.....

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//// Atari CD Master from Homa

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Homa Systems House is proud to announce a New product, the ATARI CD MASTER (ACM). ACM is a an authoring system for a number of DOS/WINDOWS popular CD ROMS. ACM has the following features:

- easy user interface, fully multitaksing in a window
- pictures are viewable on 2, 16 color, 256 color modes, including
graphics cards and the Falcon
- Powerful search features, with "narrow down" option. On the TIME
Almanac, you can search the whole CD for particular key words
- Up to 4 text windows open, with one picture window
- Save, print, ...

The following CDs are supported so far:

1- TIME ALMANAC OF the 1990s. This CD contains all the TIME magazine articles from Jan 1 1989 to May 4 1994, will all the pictures. It also has the TIME MAN OF THE YEAR, the CIA FACT BOOK (tonnes of data/picture on various countries (>150), organizations, world statistics), maps, Almanac charts and articles. View portrait profiles on 12 major persons and events of the 20th century, highlights of each decade and all the presidential elections, and more! This is a great encyclopedia of world events. With ACM, you can access all the datafiles, pictures on any ST with monochrome graphics, or on VGA 16 color or 256 colors (TT, Falcon, graphics cards) up to 1280x1024, save and/or print them. You can also do a thorough search on all the articles/pictures, and/or narrow down your selection to reach to your desired information.

2- TIME ALMANAC, REFERENCE EDITION, This CD is very similar to the 1990s, except it only has the articles up to the end of 1993; however, it has the complete TIME MAN OF THE YEAR, from year 1927 to 1993, plus hundreds of other text and graphics.

3- UFO (I or II): This is an exciting CD with over 1300 articles, many of them with amazing graphics describing UFO events from prehistoric times to the present.

4- Space Missions: This CD contains over 1600 articles, with over 700 with astounding pictures on all the space missions form all over the world (USSR, USA, CHINA, England, ...). Do you want to know about Challenger? Just type in the key words, and you'll have everything about the missions at your finger tips.

5- 1995 AUTO ALMANAC, This is an amazing CD, for someone who wants to buy a new car, or just a hobbyist. This CD has complete descriptions/specifications for over 350 different models of automobiles; from European, to American and Japanese.... Each description comes with up to 5 images for each car. It also has TOP 10s on best/worst cars, most economical, best gas mileage... on how to buy/lease a new car, even a glossary of terms, and more.... If you have a dream car, you would most likely find anything there is to know about it on this CD!

6- Audio CD Master v4, "NOW IN 3D" which is the ultimate Audio CD player on the ATARIs. With this program (or accessory), you can play Audio CDs in the background of any application using any SCSI CD ROM,
even the popular NEC 25, which no other player supports. It requires -> no <- other

(Continued on Page 22 ----->)

drivers (i.e., metados, extendos).

Version 4 has lots of new features/enhancements, 3D buttons. Audio CD Master offers the following:

Play, stop, pause, resume, FF, REW, eject, track skip options.

Track options allow you to specify a range of tracks, i.e., from 2-11, or play a single track, or play programmable tracks. You can assign up to 16 tracks to play, and also save them, so the next time you insert the CD, the program automatically asks you whether you want to play the previously saved sequences.

You can play anywhere within a track, i.e., track 4, minute 3, and second 11, for ultimate control eg: for musicians.

Displays the track names (by their name of the albums/and tracks) for the current CD, and also you can select tracks by their names (if you have a lot of CDs, you don't need to memorize all the track numbers anymore)

Works as a program or accessory, with any resolution above 640x400..It is also multitasking. Has an alternate window (a much smaller one) with all the main buttons (play, resume,pause, stop,track, rew, ff,...) in order to have instant access from within any program, and avoid cluttering.

ATARI TT, Falcon, ST (with ICD) is required.

Atari CD MASTER will have new drivers added to it periodically, for a nominal fee. Pricing is as follows:

ATARI CD MASTER, complete 4 pack for only ..... 39.95 US$
Upgrade for Audio CD Master(v3) owners ..... 25.00 US$

Upgrades can be done by sending your disk directly to Homa systems House or It's all Relative.

We can also supply you the CDs for $15 for Time Almanac (reference edition or 1990s), 1995 AUTO ALMANAC ($18.00) and UFO. The price of Space missions is not yet known, but will be around the same figure.

As mentioned previously, you can expect more CDs to be added to the list (we are working really fast, there are two more CDs in the works, estimated release time, two weeks)

At Homa Systems House, we are dedicated to bring you quality software and hardware. If you want to be on our mailing list, please send your name and address to one of the following:

Homa Systems House
P.O.BOX 52127
OTTAWA, ON K1N 5S0
CANADA
TEL: (613) 722-0901
FAX: (613) 722-9061

EMAIL:
genie: NIMA
internet: aa414@freenet.carleton.ca

You can expect to see ATARI CD MASTER on your friendly dealer's shelf, or directly from us. We accept Visa/MC, or money order, or cheque for methods of payment. 3% surcharge on credit cards.

=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=
//// JetSpeed and OutBurST!
=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=

A GDOS Printer Driver For LaserJet Compatibles

JetSpeed is a custom GDOS printer driver for HP LaserJet compatible printers that delivers up to 600 dpi resolution. The driver is customized to utilize OutBurST! and when combined with that product can produce output speeds with GDOS applications far beyond that available with the standard TOS ROM routine. The table below shows the OutBurST!/JetSpeed combination can yield output speeds from 10 to 18 times faster than TOS.

(Continued on Page 23 ------>)

Average Time to Print One Page (Seconds)

Resolution	TOS	OutBurST	JetSpeed & OutBurST!
300 dpi	135	40	14
600 dpi	575	127	31

The table above was based on printing of a five page document to an HP LaserJet 4 using Atari Works on a Falcon030.

System Requirements: Any Atari ST, TT030, Stacy or Falcon030 with GDOS or Speedo GDOS, HP LaserJet compatible printer.

Note: OutBurST! is required to achieve printout speed enhancement.

Ordering information at end of document.

Straight Edge is also announcing a new version of OutBurST! the ultimate printer output accelerator for the Atari 16 and 32 bit computers.

Background

When the Atari ST was introduced the most common hard copy output device in use was the dot matrix printer. The TOS printer driver that came in the ROM of your ST which is used to send data to the parallel printer port, while not being optimized, was fast enough to send data to dot matrix printers without adding unacceptable delay in printing. This is because a dot matrix printer is not capable of receiving data at a particularly rapid rate, and so although the driver was slow, no significant printout speed penalty was incurred. Since that time, the popularity of ink jet and laser printers has grown substantially and many Atari ST, TT and Falcon030 users have purchased them in the quest for high quality output. This increase in print quality required an increase in the printers output resolution. Unfortunately, the higher output resolution increased the amount of data that had to be sent to the printer for each page. This, coupled with the fact that the newer ink jet and laser printers could accept data at a very high rate, made the ST a speed bottleneck when it came to printing.

Enter - OutBurST! With OutBurST! this ST/TT030/Falcon030 speed bottleneck is eliminated. If you have a high speed printer, OutBurST! can reduce printout times by a very significant amount. Testing with some printers while using Pagestream, has given a printing time of 11 seconds compared to a standard TOS 1.4 printing time of 301 seconds. That is a reduction factor of 27 times. For a short 10 page document, the difference would represent 48 additional minutes at your computer waiting for the output! Clearly, OutBurST! can make your printing considerably more efficient. OutBurST! includes an Auto-switch Print Spooler that can be enabled or disabled depending upon the type of application program being used. Applications using graphical printer output (Pagestream, Calamus, GDOS application, etc.) to form images or characters are not suited for spooler use. Ascii text based applications (Word Writer, Word Perfect, Steno, etc.) are most efficient when using a spooler. Using the unique Auto-switch spooler in OutBurST! 3.3 allows you to optimize all of your printing tasks.

New Features

Version 3.3 of OutBurST! adds several improvements. In order to work effectively with multitasking, the spooler feature can be locked to on or off so that it does not inadvertently change when switching between application. The program has been rewritten to further improve output speed and can result in speed increases of 10 to 15% depending on the printer being used. OutBurST! is compatible with any Atari ST, STe, Mega STe, Falcon030 or TT030 computer with TOS in ROM.

Requirements

(Continued on Page 24---->)

OutBurST! takes about 2K of memory plus whatever amount of memory you allocate for the printer spooler. OutBurST! speeds up output to the parallel printer port only. It cannot and will not improve speed of printers that are attached to the serial port.

Benchmark Results

OutBurST! speeds up Pagestream significantly as shown in the table below:

"Printing Page" Time in Pagestream in seconds

Printer	TOS	OutBurST!
HP LaserJet 4	323	10
HP LaserJet IIIP	323	13
DeskJet 500	323	28
Canon BJ200	207	44

OutBurST! speeds up the printing for most Atari programs. Some typical results using an HP LaserJet 4 are listed below:

Typical Results with HP 4 Printer (seconds)

Application	TOS	OutBurST!
Calamus SL	232	136
Atari Works	371	111
Calamus 1.09	245	116
Papyrus	423	237

Ordering Information

JetSpeed is available for $19.95 plus $2.00 shipping and handling.

OutBurST! 3.3 is available for $29.95 plus $2.00 shipping and handling.

An upgrade to OutBurST! 3.3 for registered owners is available by returning your master disk with $10.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling. Payment by check, Visa or Mastercard accepted.

Special Package Deal if you order before September 1, 1995!

JetSpeed and OutBurST! 3.3 combination for $39.95 plus $3.00 shipping and handling.

JetSpeed and OutBurST! 3.3 upgrade for registered owners for $25.95 plus $3.00 shipping and handling.

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//// CD-Font Manager

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Fouch Software located in Erie, PA, long known for their popular mailing list program, MAILING MANAGER ST, has announced the availability of a new product.

CD-FONT MANAGER ST

CD-FONT MANAGER ST is a font manager designed to be a front end for a popular CD-ROM font disk, 2000 Fantastic Fonts from Expert Software. The CD-ROM contains over 2,000 fonts in both Postscript Type 1 and TrueType formats.

CD-FONT MANAGER ST will allow the user to review all the fonts on the CD-ROM. The user can also select any number of fonts to be copied by the program to a hard disk for use with such programs as, Pagestream, or any other program that supports Postscript Type 1 or TrueType fonts.

CD-FONT MANAGER ST will run on all ST/STe/TT/FALCON computers. It works in ST Medium, ST High, TT Medium, TT High, Falcon 640 * 480 * 16 color modes. A CD-ROM, driver, and hard drive are required to use the program.

CD-FONT MANAGER ST can be purchased along with the 2,000 Fantastic

(Continued on Page 25---->)

Fonts CD-ROM from your local Atari Dearler, or directly from Fouch Software for $34.95. This works out to be less than 2 cents per font, and with easy use of CD-MANAGER ST you may never have to buy another font again.

CD-FONT MANAGER ST is a trademark of Fouch Software, Postscript is a registered trademark of Adobe Systems, Inc. TrueType is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc., Fantastic 2000 Fonts is a trademark of Expert Software.

For more information on the CD-FONT MANAGER ST, contact Fouch Software at:

1823 West 8th Street or (814) 455-1294
Erie, PA 16505-4938 M-F, 5-10pm, EST

GEnie Address: J.FOUCH

* Note: Due to a bug in NVDI 3.02, most fonts are ignored by NDVI.

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